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Transcript for Episode 27: Gentle Giant - Fierce Fighter: People Power from the League to the Legislature to ConCon

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[Gentle Giant - Fierce Fighter-People Power from the League to the Legislature-Dorothy Eck]

00:00:00

[Music]

00:00:03

Narrator: From the beginning of Montana's distinctive yet troubled history, the Treasure State was dominated both economically and politically by powerful outside interests who shipped in capital and bought control of the State.

00:00:14

Historians tell us that as the Anaconda Company and its friends ran Montana, economic and political power flowed out into the hands of distant capitalists and corporations.

00:00:26

Policy was determined in far off New York City and control of the press was rigid. Anaconda's corporate dominance in Montana's political affairs was unique in American history. For its first 75 years, Montana was a one-company State. But then big winds of change roared across the Treasure State; between 1965 and 1980 Montanans ripped off their copper collar, transforming Montana from a corporate colony into a free modern State.

00:00:55

The people finally controlled their own destiny. The pitched battle between the people and the established power structure was not easily won but fired In a Crucible of Change a new Montana was born. Join Evan Barrett and real history makers of the time as they shine the light on this remarkable era.

00:01:19

Evan Barrett: Welcome back to *In the Crucible of Change*. We have an extraordinarily special program for you in this segment. We're being joined not in the studio; this is an unusual setting but we've come to Bozeman, Montana. We're in the living room of the Granddame of Montana government and politics Dorothy Eck.

00:01:42

And we decided to come here to visit with her in the comfort of her living room where she's been for roughly 60-some years and to talk about an extraordinary history of Montana that has been seen through her eyes and through her activities. Dorothy is often known as Senator Dorothy Eck, as she spent 20 years as a State Senator, excellent State Senator from Gallatin County. In addition to that of course she's often known as not only a Constitutional Convention Delegate but also the Vice President of the Constitutional Convention. She was extraordinarily active on the front-end of that as a Member of the League of Women Voters, who were mobilizing the electorate at that time into being involved and engaged in many things that would improve government and government services in Montana.

00:02:38

And she was involved in the Executive Branch implementation of the new Constitution as a member of the Administration of Governor Tom Judge. So she's got an extraordinarily colorful and meaningful history when it comes to the *Crucible of Change* period that we're talking about. So Dorothy it's great to be here with you.

00:03:00

Dorothy Eck: Happy to have you here.

00:03:02

Evan Barrett: Yeah; it's--when we've--of course known each other for many, many years and like most of the--the--the programs we have these are just conversations because we're all reacquainting ourselves with a lot of history we lived together, although you lived more history than I could possibly ever want to. And I--but you first came here from Washington State as a faculty wife; tell us a little bit about that before we dive into the substance here.

00:03:32

Dorothy Eck: Well I was happy to come to Bozeman. They really pushed Hugo. He was not wanting to come back here and teach. But they needed him and this was at the end of the War and they knew that there were all these GIs who were coming back to school.

00:03:48

And they persuaded him to come. There wasn't a house for sale or rent in Montana. So he and his cousin started building and actually they started in June and by the time school started in September we had almost moved in, although--

00:04:10

Evan Barrett: And that's this house?

00:04:11

Dorothy Eck: No, no; this is--

00:04:12

Evan Barrett: The other one?

00:04:13

Dorothy Eck: --the house up on **Krantz** Street. The saw wasn't out of the living room until Christmas. **[Laughs]**

00:04:22

Evan Barrett: **[Laughs]** Well you know you--how did it feel coming here to--to Bozeman and what was your expected role as a--a spouse of a faculty member at Montana State? At that time it would have been Montana State College, right?

00:04:34

Dorothy Eck: That's right. And as a new faculty member women came to call; that was proper. They entered my living room which had this old machinery in it.

00:04:48

Evan Barrett: Had the saw in there and everything. **[Laughs]**

00:04:49

Dorothy Eck: Yeah and everything was there. But--but they did it. And I was invited to join their groups; their groups mostly played bridge.

00:05:01

Evan Barrett: Played bridge.

00:05:02

Dorothy Eck: And I was--had very firmly decided I would not play bridge. *[Laughs]* And I didn't. I think I went to one bridge party to satisfy them. And I think after that they decided they didn't really want me participating.

00:05:20

Evan Barrett: Were you a little bit opinionated at that bridge party?

00:05:22

Dorothy Eck: Yes; yes, uh-hm, yeah. *[Laughs]* I was--I was opinionated so far as being interested in issues and not really in the social life.

00:05:38

Evan Barrett: So you found your way at that point when you decided you weren't going to be a bridge player. You found your way to the League of Women Voters.

00:05:46

Dorothy Eck: Yes.

00:05:48

Evan Barrett: Tell us about how that started and then--then we'll talk about how it evolved into real significance for the whole State of Montana.

00:05:55

Dorothy Eck: Well the League was just getting started. And I was very happy to find this group. But I also was going back to school and I was very--for years I was taking classes and you know it took me a lot of years before I got a Bachelor's Degree and then later on a Master's Degree.

00:06:14

And so I was involved in the University as well as the League of Women Voters. And that gave me a lot of room to participate in what was going on.

00:06:28

Evan Barrett: Kept your brain going both in terms of the--learning things but also in doing things, huh?

00:06:33

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; that's right. Well about that; as the League formed at that time it seemed like they begin to stand out in the forefront of--of civic activity in Montana. Can you talk to us a little bit about some of the big players around the State of Montana that became partners with you in the League of Women Voters in making stuff happen? Some of the people you remember that--that were key players with the League--?

00:07:02

Dorothy Eck: There were--

00:07:03

Evan Barrett: I'm thinking of Daphne as an example or--

00:07:06

Dorothy Eck: --well actually I was elected reluctantly, but I was elected as--as President of the League of Women Voters of Montana. And at that time Daphne Bugby later Daphne Bugby-Jones was the person they had designated

to follow the Legislature. And so when the Legislature came into Session I came over with Daphne and we didn't know what we were doing but [*Laughs*] we did a lot.

00:07:38

Evan Barrett: You did it.

00:07:39

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; things were--were not that well-organized. I remember we would go up and pick up copies of whatever Bills had been introduced in a day and go back and shuffle through them and decide which ones the League should be supporting. And the League had--had a lot of positions in the State and nationally too. So there were a tremendous number of Bills that we would have an interest in. And we selected too many of them to begin with.

00:08:15

Evan Barrett: Now you were from here and she was from Missoula?

00:08:16

Dorothy Eck: That's right; uh-hm.

00:08:18

Evan Barrett: So you met in the middle in Helena?

00:08:18

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm; uh-hm.

00:08:20

Evan Barrett: And took on the Legislature?

00:08:22

Dorothy Eck: Yes.

00:08:22

Evan Barrett: Now in those days we were told in other programs that in those days a lot of times the Bills were written by Anaconda Company lawyers.

00:08:31

Dorothy Eck: That's right.

00:08:32

Evan Barrett: And the Anaconda Company thumbs up, thumbs down, up in the balcony had a lot to do with Bills passing or not. Would that be a fair reflection--

00:08:41

Dorothy Eck: Yes; uh-hm.

00:08:41

Evan Barrett: --of the way things were?

00:08:42

Dorothy Eck: Actually when we moved here and built this duplex we had to rent half the duplex to Veterans in order to get materials. But when they were gone in the summer, we had other people there. And one of the people, women who lived up there had worked at the Legislature. And she was the one that kind of filled me in on what went on with the thumbs up and thumbs down and how much the Anaconda Company and Montana Power really controlled what was going on.

00:09:20

They--they picked the candidates on both sides.

00:09:25

Evan Barrett: That's a guaranteed way to win, huh?

00:09:26

Dorothy Eck: Yes; yes, yeah. *[Laughs]* So you know it was a challenge going into it and we looked at it that way.

00:09:35

Evan Barrett: Now Gene Tidball who would--for a while had been the head of the Legislature Council when it had been formed and I don't know if they--they were--probably about that time was when they were relatively new, the Legislative Council.

00:09:50

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:09:51

Evan Barrett: And he was the first attorney to kind of head it up. And he--he said when he was looking at the--they typed up four copies of every Bill when they first got them introduced and he knew where three of them went but he couldn't figure out where the fourth one went. And so he had his staff look around and say well, where does that fourth copy go? And then they came back and they reported it went to the Anaconda Company.

00:10:12

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm.

00:10:13

Evan Barrett: So--*[Laughs]*.

00:10:14

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; okay that figures.

00:10:15

Evan Barrett: So when we talk about the kind of--you were there and very involved and experienced although in a very--as a young active person learning the ropes about what it was like when we were still kind of a corporate colony.

00:10:30

Dorothy Eck: Well and we really resented the fact that Montana was known as kind of belonging to the copper collar. And this was we thought something we should get rid of. And--and we worked at it.

00:10:52

Evan Barrett: Well you know and it had to start with a lot of places. Now one of the things that I remember seeing a picture of a--of a big bus that said *League of Women--Montana League of Women Voters* on the side of the bus. And it was a picture of--of a number of people from the League doing a tour and it seemed to me it was a picture up in Havre or something. Do you remember ever touring around and involving yourself with a bus tour of any sort?

00:11:16

Dorothy Eck: Well I didn't do that but I--I knew it was going on. And we really worked at getting the word out to as many groups as we could and--and trying to get support from a lot of different groups. And one person I'm sorry you can't interview is Dale Harris because he was--

00:11:38

Evan Barrett: Oh yeah.

00:11:39

Dorothy Eck: --very much a part of that. He was a young guy; I think he just barely finished college and Dr. Waldron who was head of Political Science didn't think that all of this review would come to anything. And so the

summer that they were looking and had a little bit of funding for educating people about it, he took off for Europe and left this young fellow Dale Harris in charge. And Dale had a great sense of how to educate people.

00:12:19

Evan Barrett: Uh-hm.

00:12:19

Dorothy Eck: And--

00:12:21

Evan Barrett: Yeah; he passed away way, way too young.

00:12:24

Dorothy Eck: Yes; he did.

00:12:25

Evan Barrett: He was a marvelous talent wasn't he?

00:12:26

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; he was and--and really helped to organize in such a way that we got the message out.

00:12:39

Evan Barrett: Now it was interesting that Ellis Waldron and by the way his book is what I use as kind of the bible to--to back up all the information we need for this series, but he also was a person who first sponsored Chuck Johnson to go over and carry on an internship in the 1971 Legislature that led to Chuck's 40-some year career as a reporter at the *Capitol* and he was also a person who said to [Mae Nan Ellington, Mae Nan Robinson] then, she was working in Graduate School with him, you ought to run for the Constitutional Convention. So though he was wondering if it was going to happen, he seemed to have a pretty widespread influence in who he got to be involved.

00:13:22

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; I think he knew it was going--going to happen. But I don't think he thought it was going to be successful. Chuck Johnson used to--we'd have a meeting in the, [Deidra's] office early in the morning of each Legislative day. They'd kind of look up what was going to happen through the day. And Chuck would always be there. And he was challenged on that; so why should he be able to be in this as a newspaper reporter and--but I think they let him stay. I don't think they kicked him out.

00:14:01

Evan Barrett: I think the provisions of the Constitution that you helped pass provided for that kind of openness and eventually the Court said even the caucuses had to be open.

00:14:10

Dorothy Eck: Yes; uh-hm.

00:14:11

Evan Barrett: So you know there was--

00:14:13

Dorothy Eck: And this--this was one of my main thrusts was the Right to Know, in other words making sure that the public had a right to know what was going on and participate.

00:14:27

Evan Barrett: There was a little bit of--we heard from someone else in one of our earlier discussions who made the point that--that the balancing act that was put in the Constitution which is the Right to Know as long as the Right of Privacy didn't--of an individual did not exceed it, required a balancing. That has required a lot of Court cases to be held constantly to say well how does that balance work out. But by and large for Montana it's worked out on the side of--of sunshine.

00:14:53

Dorothy Eck: Yeah. And that was--you know there were people who were very much in support of the Right to Know who really threatened to pull out entirely if they left in the Right to Privacy. And--

00:15:12

Evan Barrett: I think there was a question about whether or not the newspapers if they didn't have it done right would support the Constitution.

00:15:18

Dorothy Eck: Well how it finally was settled in discussion was I suggested that we say unless it clearly--

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Evan Barrett: Clearly?

00:15:30

Dorothy Eck: --yes and I don't know if it clearly did that much but it gave them an excuse--

00:15:36

Evan Barrett: Covered.

00:15:36

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:15:37

Evan Barrett: Yeah; that's good--that's good language. That's good language.

00:15:40

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; yeah.

00:15:41

Evan Barrett: And it's an extraordinarily clear use of language that holds up in Court somehow.

00:15:46

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:15:47

Evan Barrett: Every one of them has to be judged individually but it's--that's--but that's good; it happened.

00:15:50

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:15:52

Evan Barrett: And we have a Right to Know that is far beyond almost any other State.

00:15:55

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:15:57

Evan Barrett: You I'm sure are very proud of that.

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Dorothy Eck: I am; I am. And I think we have to keep protecting it, so--

00:16:03

Evan Barrett: Yeah; that's one of the challenges is to take the gains that were made during the *Crucible of Change* period and keeping them. Now tell me; back before that again when we were talking about the League of Women Voters, it seemed like that activity of the League had kind of reached a crescendo in 1970 when there were two things--well it would have been '69 because in '69 the Legislature created--they received a study that said that reorganization needed to be done and the Constitution needed to be looked at. And so they put on the ballot after the Legislature went ahead and created a Reorganization Commission, they put the *20's Plenty* provision on the ballot and they put the call of the Constitutional Convention on the ballot so it was the voters of Montana deciding whether or not to call a Constitutional Convention. But that didn't happen without the League of Women Voters being right up to their eyeballs in pushing that.

00:17:00

Dorothy Eck: Yes; we did. And--and we were really surprised it passed.

00:17:05

Evan Barrett: Overwhelmingly.

00:17:07

Dorothy Eck: Yes; but afterwards we were kind of rejoicing out in the hallway and someone said well you know look girls. **[Laughs]** They called us girls. **[Laughs]** This doesn't mean that this is actually going to happen. It'll just be one of three things that will be considered. But that wasn't the way it was. It was going to happen.

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Evan Barrett: We were in a period of change right then and people were looking for change.

00:17:35

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm.

00:17:35

Evan Barrett: Part of what they seemed to have recognized, the main dysfunction--one of the main dysfunctionalities that people saw with the State government that everyone could kind of see was this legislative stuff. It had become what everyone in Montana understood was this place didn't work with 60 calendar days and stopping the clock at 11:59 on the--on the last day and keeping it going and putting a shroud over it and all that. They didn't--they didn't get that. So I think the Legislature itself was one of the reasons it happened.

00:18:09

Dorothy Eck: They realized they had to take action in order to make it really happen.

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Evan Barrett: And we had learned and if you--there was any reading done we had learned that given the provisions of the Old Constitution which is no more than three Amendments could be put up in any year that you could never get things changed unless you had a Convention because there was just too much to change. I think it was that 30-percent of the provisions of the Constitution needed to be thrown out completely and replaced. That was what the study showed. And so there is no way to do that without a Convention.

00:18:41

Dorothy Eck: No.

00:18:41

Evan Barrett: So you've got the--now the *20's Plenty* was another thing.

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Dorothy Eck: Well that was good. [*Laughs*]

00:18:46

Evan Barrett: Tell us about your--what you got out of it because that's when I was first involved in this stuff was in that Executive Reorganization. Tell me--give me your reflections on the League pushing the executive stuff and how it all evolved from your perspective.

00:18:57

Dorothy Eck: Well to begin with the League followed any major activities or Committee meetings in Helena and the Committee looking at government organization was a natural. And you know the situation was terrible. There were--

00:19:20

Evan Barrett: Almost 200--almost 200 agencies.

00:19:21

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; agencies.

00:19:23

Evan Barrett: Courts, Bureaus, Commissions and--

00:19:24

Dorothy Eck: Each with their own Board and not really responsible to anybody. So it was important and we sat through that and I'm not sure how the *20's Plenty* came up but it seemed to work that you--we needed fewer organizations and *20* was one that had worked in Colorado.

00:19:54

Evan Barrett: Colorado was where it came from.

00:19:55

Dorothy Eck: And so that was plucked out. And we pushed it. And everybody else involved pushed it. I think everyone who sat through those hearings realized that the situation we had was totally irresponsible.

00:20:11

Evan Barrett: You know I think a case was made that the people that benefitted from the Executive Branch being chaotic where nobody was in charge were either the outside vested power--power interests on the outside of the government who didn't want a strong government to look at them or the bureaucrats, the people who got their--

00:20:33

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; they wanted things just the way it is.

00:20:35

Evan Barrett: Keep it the way it is, so those were the two pockets of resistance but citizens were not getting a good government. And I think they kind of knew it. And but I think the--what we've heard in other programs was that when Forrest Anderson ran for Governor after his history which was an amazing history of being on the Supreme Court, 12 years as Attorney General, a County Attorney, a--a Supreme Court Justice that he actually wanted to be Governor and he wanted to govern. And so he thought let's--to make this government we got to make these changes.

00:21:12

Dorothy Eck: Yes; let me govern, uh-hm.

00:21:14

Evan Barrett: Yeah and they--and they went to Colorado and--and found that they had this Amendment in Colorado to--to limit it to 20 departments. And threw that in the mix, right late in the '69 Session and everyone kind of said well okay, and off it went onto the ballot and I assume that and the *20's Plenty* thing that you went--you campaigned aggressively in favor of it I presume and--

00:21:39

Dorothy Eck: Yes.

00:21:39

Evan Barrett: --and successfully.

00:21:40

Dorothy Eck: Just it made sense and sometimes people want to support--

00:21:49

Evan Barrett: Something that--

00:21:49

Dorothy Eck: --something that makes sense; yes.

00:21:51

Evan Barrett: You know sometimes you wonder but often times it works that way. And of course you know I was on the staff, the initial staff of that Commission and--and the last remaining member of that Commission, Tom Harrison did one of our earlier programs in the *Crucible of Change* series and talked about how the--when they did-- finally had the hearings the--the--the only people, everyone--it seemed like everyone was opposed to it but it was really the vested interest and the bureaucrats and he said as Legislators we looked at it and said one, well we expect them to be against it, and number two, that the [inaudible] is in the form of that 20-department limitation was hanging over the Legislature. They had to do it by that point, so mission accomplished in a way.

00:22:35

But at that same election had the Constitutional Convention call on it.

00:22:42

Dorothy Eck: I think it was great that they were together because I think that helped support the idea of a Constitutional Convention.

00:22:50

Evan Barrett: Uh-hm; yeah because all this argument about the ineffectiveness of the Executive Branch helped plan to the need to make lots of changes. Actually the big change got done with the 20's *Plenty* but--but nonetheless it was part of setting the fabric, you know the--the climate. And both the--both of those passed with a huge percentage, almost 70-percent I think on both of them.

00:23:13

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; I don't--I don't think it was a major battle at all at that time.

00:23:18

Evan Barrett: Then of course as--now going to the '71 Session and they started getting ready for a new Constitution and the Supreme Court did something that was probably helpful to you and--but every other citizens of Montana too when it ruled that sitting Legislators couldn't be members of the Constitutional Convention.

00:23:37

Dorothy Eck: Or people who were holding office.

00:23:39

Evan Barrett: Any office in Montana.

00:23:40

Dorothy Eck: Which included you.

00:23:41

Evan Barrett: Well I wasn't technically a civil officer because I was--I had no authority. But [*Laughs*]--but that was a narrow interpretation but anybody elected for sure--

00:23:51

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; yeah.

00:23:51

Evan Barrett: --and anybody that had any juice, and I wasn't one of those, but couldn't run and so the door was open for a fresh face.

00:23:59

Dorothy Eck: Oh we had so many of them. [*Laughs*]

00:24:02

Evan Barrett: Yeah and remember that in the '71 Session how many Legislators there were. In '71 there were only two.

00:24:12

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; one in the House and one in the Senate.

00:24:13

Evan Barrett: Yeah; Tony Rozelle and Dorothy Bradley. Take us a second and tell us about your urging Dorothy to be a Legislator.

00:24:21

Dorothy Eck: Oh well this was--this is because of Earth Day and the first Earth Day here turned out to be a marvelous affair where--

00:24:33

Evan Barrett: That was in early 1970.

00:24:35

Dorothy Eck: --yeah and all kinds of groups participated and the number of people that showed up at the Student Union Building to listen to these speeches and to participate in the discussions, it--it was exciting. And Dorothy was very much a part of that. And when it was all over we were sitting around kind of discussing what had happened and what we could do now. And we suggested to Dorothy that she should run for the Legislature.

00:25:08

And she said well you know Bozeman is a Republican town and no way am I going to be elected. And it--it was you know when I was--when I was first at Bozeman and went down Main Street and there was a little sign in one of the offices Democratic Party. And I walked in; there was a desk way at the back with someone sitting there-- Jim Van Winkle I think--and he said oh, it's so nice to have someone coming in the front door. **[Laughs]** Suppose people don't want to be seen walking in through the Democratic Party; they come in the back door. **[Laughs]**

00:25:52

And that was pretty much true. I mean Bozeman was known as the Republican town. But we persuaded Dorothy that she had a message that--

00:26:05

Evan Barrett: Fit the times and--?

00:26:07

Dorothy Eck: Yes and it was very important to her and that if she was a candidate she would have a lot of opportunities to go out and share that message with people. And so she decided to do it. And they were dumbfounded when they came over and when she went over to sign up because they thought she was 12 years old or something **[Laughs]**.

00:26:32

Evan Barrett: Yeah; she was very young looking and--.

00:26:33

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; yeah.

00:26:34

Evan Barrett: But she was wedded to the issues.

00:26:36

Dorothy Eck: Yes, yes; very much. And she got out with those issues and of course she won and that was also kind of the first inroad of downtown Bozeman not being purely Republican.

00:26:52

Evan Barrett: It became a little more acceptable to go in the front door apparently after that but she showed me when--when she came to my class last year, she showed me her campaign material that she had from that time. It was a very environmental piece that she had.

00:27:04

Dorothy Eck: It's for the butterflies. *[Laughs]*

00:27:06

Evan Barrett: Yeah; it was really a--but it was very good. So you know of course you helped launch a--a significant Montana political and policy career when you got Dorothy Bradley started in politics like that.

00:27:20

Dorothy Eck: Of course the other one that started out of that same Earth Day was Bob Brown.

00:27:27

Evan Barrett: Right; right. And we're going to have him as part of this series as well.

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Dorothy Eck: Well we--we had always assumed--

00:27:33

Evan Barrett: He was of course--although he's from the Flathead was going to school down here.

00:27:37

Dorothy Eck: Yeah and we assumed he was a Democrat because he--because his views were all right. But on the other hand he knew that as a candidate from the Flathead he had to be a Republican if he was going to win. And he--that's what he did.

00:27:54

Evan Barrett: Bob has certainly never been one you could package up as being the everyday Republican.

00:27:59

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; uh-hm.

00:28:00

Evan Barrett: He's a very interesting progressive person and we've--I had him come to my class last year and he gave a marvelous presentation. And he'll be participating in this series as well.

00:28:09

Dorothy Eck: Good.

00:28:09

Evan Barrett: And but so you did that but here we all the sudden we--we have suddenly passed and put on the ballot these things and now you're able with no Legislators able to do it--to run, you're able to think about running for the Constitutional Convention. Tell me was that an easy decision, a--was it a natural progression; how did it come that you decided to run for the Con-Con?

00:28:34

Dorothy Eck: I don't think there was ever any question in my mind. I mean I thought it was such a good idea and wanted to be a part of it. And I knew it would be difficult but--but I thought it would be doable because I had good friends in both Parties. And I remember I think it was Grace Bates--some good conservative person and I went to the dinner that--the Potato Festival has I think it was--

00:29:15

Evan Barrett: And that would have been down in Manhattan and--?

00:29:17

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; yeah and she took me around and introduced me to people and then she went back around and said you know you can vote for Dorothy because she's a good Christian lady. *[Laughs]*

00:29:34

Evan Barrett: *[Laughs]* Grace got elected herself.

00:29:36

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; yeah, uh-hm.

00:29:38

Evan Barrett: And she was a conservative Democrat and quite a good lady--good lady yeah.

00:29:41

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm; yeah.

00:29:41

Evan Barrett: So you decided to run though; it was kind of automatic. And how did you turn out in the election I mean in this county? Did you--?

00:29:47

Dorothy Eck: I think I--I think I did very well in the election. I think I might have been top vote-getter but if not top it was two--and that was an election where you voted for six candidates, so--. No; I did--I did well in the election.

00:30:05

Evan Barrett: So off you went to write a Constitution.

00:30:08

Dorothy Eck: Hmm.

00:30:09

Evan Barrett: After all this you know and when you got over there they decided that you ought to be the Vice President, the Western Vice President; was that what it was?

00:30:16

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm; I think that was because I was a strong supporter of keeping it bipartisan. So they felt that I was kind of a safe Democrat to have there. *[Laughs]*

00:30:29

Evan Barrett: You were acceptable because as a League member you had worked with anybody and everybody to get done stuff?

00:30:33

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; however, the Party, and I don't know if you were part of the Party at that time, they did not agree with that and they felt that because the Democrats really won a lot more seats than--

00:30:46

Evan Barrett: We kind of swept into that with that sales tax election; yeah.

00:30:49

Dorothy Eck: Yes; that we should control the Convention. And I didn't agree with that.

00:30:57

Evan Barrett: Well you know I was the Executive Director of the Party at that time. I had gone from the Governor's Office down to the Party. And basically the message I got was--

00:31:08

Dorothy Eck: Support--

00:31:08

Evan Barrett: --well stay away first of all.

00:31:11

Dorothy Eck: Oh okay.

00:31:12

Evan Barrett: We don't need this partisanship up here and we don't need a bunch of lobbyists up here and we just need to do our job and it was an off-year, '72, and so I stayed away. Now I was just--I wasn't the Chairman of the Party but as Executive Director I stayed away. But I suspect there were voices from the Party that called for a

stronger partisan tint to be--but you guys kind of wiped that out in one fell swoop with the seating proposal that you had.

00:31:42

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:31:42

Evan Barrett: Somebody said--said they thought that was originally a Chet [Waylock] idea. Was that--?

00:31:46

Dorothy Eck: I think--I think it was. I don't remember but--

00:31:50

Evan Barrett: He might have gotten that from saying we sit alphabetically in the classroom; why wouldn't--? I don't know but you know Chet having been a former Democratic Party State Chair suggested if he's the one that did and--that this seating alphabetically, what a marvelous thing that was to break down the barriers. Tell us about that and how that worked and--

00:32:11

Dorothy Eck: Well it--it worked wonderfully. We had--I had Republicans sitting on both sides of me. One of the Republicans had been Mayor of Great Falls and she pretty well took--got her directions.

00:32:25

Evan Barrett: That was Marian [Irving] was it or--?

00:32:27

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; uh-hm. And on the other side--hand was--was one who had KOA Campgrounds all over the State.

00:32:39

Evan Barrett: Oh well Dave Drum.

00:32:40

Dorothy Eck: Dave Drum.

00:32:41

Evan Barrett: Dave Drums, yeah.

00:32:42

Dorothy Eck: He was there. And Dave Drum had a lot going on businesswise as long as--while we were in Session. And there was a little office just a few steps off of where we were sitting.

00:32:56

Evan Barrett: He was always over there in the office was he?

00:32:58

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; he would and then he would come back in for a vote and ask me what it was about and I would tell him and he'd vote the right way. **[Laughs]** And he said one of the times, he said you know they have listed me as one of the--I don't know how many dozen more liberal people in the Convention. He said you know you've ruined my reputation. **[Laughs]**

00:33:24

Evan Barrett: Well in fact in 1976 when Dave decided to run for the United States Senate in the Republican Primary and his opponent was Stan Berger of the Farm Bureau and he got nailed for being too progressive and too liberal and he didn't make it past the Primary.

00:33:42

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; yeah.

00:33:44

Evan Barrett: Yeah; so maybe you did [*Laughs*]

00:33:45

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; I did ruin his--his chances, yeah. But he was--he was good and he was--he also really wanted to discuss issues. So I think that when he voted my way he already pretty much agreed that that's the way it was.

00:34:05

Evan Barrett: Yeah; it as probably the sensible approach to--. What was your--what were the centerpieces of your--of what you--stand out with you in the convention of the policy things that were most important to you as--?

00:34:16

Dorothy Eck: Well of course from the Bill of Rights Committee it was still the Right to Know. And--and then there was the whole matter of including Indians and--and that came out successfully.

00:34:32

Evan Barrett: Something which wasn't fully implemented until Governor Schweitzer came in.

00:34:36

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; that's right, uh-hm.

00:34:38

Evan Barrett: Yeah. That and--

00:34:42

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm.

00:34:43

Evan Barrett: --the--any other things that--?

00:34:47

Dorothy Eck: Well our whole--I think our whole Committee on the Bill of Rights was important all the way through the Legislature issue.

00:35:04

Evan Barrett: And we've got a course a--a program on the Bill of Rights--

00:35:08

Dorothy Eck: Good.

00:35:08

Evan Barrett: --of the Constitution. And I know Wade Dahood is going to be a part of that and we have another person we've asked--.

00:35:15

Dorothy Eck: How about Rick [Inaudible].

00:35:16

Evan Barrett: We've asked Rick, and we hope he'll get here.

00:35:20

Dorothy Eck: Well that made the difference to us.

00:35:21

Evan Barrett: I think it would be really, really--. Now by the way on that--in that regard, comment from you as a person who understood the process on the front end of the Constitution but also with--as a member of the--of the--as a Delegate, where on the receiving end of the assistance of the staff and the staff of the Commission and the reports, tell us how important it was that--the way Dale and--and the Commission structured the input to the Convention and how--how valuable that was or wasn't and the people that we were doing it.

00:35:53

Dorothy Eck: Well he pulled together this group of newly graduate students and gave each one of them a topic to write on. And they put together little books for us--

00:36:09

Evan Barrett: Like a legislative book, a judicial book and so on and--?

00:36:12

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; that's right and which explained what the problems was, what we would be facing, but also what had happened in other States where they had tried it, what was successful, and what was not successful. And from that one of the things we determined that was really important--to keep it bipartisan. That's the only way you would have a success in the final votes. And--

00:36:42

Evan Barrett: These young staffers they were a pretty impressive group?

00:36:46

Dorothy Eck: They were--they were tremendous. I mean the work they did was great and most of them have gone on to continue a lot of work.

00:36:55

Evan Barrett: Well you know we are having a number of those staff people participate in these discussions.

00:37:01

Dorothy Eck: I understand you had Rich [Inaudible]--

00:37:03

Evan Barrett: Rich came and did the legislative--Rich did the legislative but there are others. We hope Rick--Rick Applegate will be able to and--and some others that have come to do that. But there was another--they all came out of the Commission which did the studies up front but once the Convention started there was a young fellow that was brought in who was the Coordinator of the Committees that you got to know by the name of Max [Baucus].

00:37:30

Evan Barrett: Oh Max [Baucus]; yes. Yeah. [Laughs]

00:37:33

Dorothy Eck: Tell us about your relationship with Max and--and how that moved forward beyond the Convention.

00:37:38

Evan Barrett: Well it was--that was great. He came in and he had--had some experience. He had--was a new graduate really. And--

00:37:50

Dorothy Eck: He'd had a little SEC experience in DC but he came out of Stanford and--and--

00:37:55

Evan Barrett: And his job was to work with the various committees to make sure that they had the information and the resources they needed and so on. But, it was also obvious--and he was criticized for this for saying that--what he really wanted to do was become Senator for Montana.

00:38:16

Dorothy Eck: Well--and people said ah, you know that's something you can want but you shouldn't outright say it.

00:38:22

Evan Barrett: Don't say it out loud.

00:38:23

Dorothy Eck: Yeah [*Laughs*]; that's preposterous. But he did.

00:38:29

Evan Barrett: He had been--I've seen this really photo of Max when he had been to Boys Nation and he's standing there and he's with Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield. And I suspect that photo was hanging on his wall in addition to his memory when he was saying I want to be a Senator.

00:38:48

Dorothy Eck: Yes; uh-hm.

00:38:49

Evan Barrett: And but he performed obviously at the Convention well and then did you give him some advice?

00:38:53

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; we talked to him about he needed to--he had just come back to Montana and his family was from--

00:39:03

Evan Barrett: Was a prominent Helena family.

00:39:03

Dorothy Eck: --Helena and we said you know you don't want to run from Helena. You want to run from Missoula. And what you need to do is go over there and you go door-to-door. And he did that. And--

00:39:22

Evan Barrett: He also--he kind of opened a law practice so that it gave him legitimacy. He wore a plaid shirt and he went to how many doors; probably every door in the county.

00:39:30

Dorothy Eck: Yes; he did. And he--in this election where they were electing six people he came in second. So he--he did well. *[Laughs]*

00:39:42

Evan Barrett: That was in the '72 election which put him into the '73 Legislature.

00:39:48

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm; uh-hm.

00:39:48

Evan Barrett: And in the '74 election he was running for Congress.

00:39:53

Dorothy Eck: That's right; uh-hm.

00:39:53

Evan Barrett: So you--you apparently gave him good advice.

00:39:56

Dorothy Eck: Yes. And a lot of--a lot of people gave him advice and a lot of people really supported him. Some of them didn't. It was interesting at that time that--that I was State Local Coordinator and Dean Hart was State Federal Coordinator and worked primarily with--with Mansfield which meant that I had good contacts all the time with Mansfield. And Mansfield really let the Governor know that I should stay on the staff because **[Laughs]** he was skeptical of what--I think Mansfield was skeptical, maybe the Governor too of what he called the Montana Mafia which was probably a group that they--you were putting together from the State of--.

00:40:56

Evan Barrett: I have no idea. **[Laughs]**

00:40:58

Dorothy Eck: Of--of individuals that they had selected and that they wanted to be prominent in State government. And I wasn't a part of that.

00:41:12

Evan Barrett: Well as you know and we'll--let's bridge back to the Constitutional Convention and it was over and we'll get into this Executive Branch stuff in a second. Tell me a little bit about the end of the Convention and putting things on the ballot, the campaign, getting it passed; what's your recollections of those things?

00:41:31

Dorothy Eck: Well they were--they were important and we all got out and--and hit the doors again trying to get it passed. They also put together a Committee in Helena and this--this again--

00:41:49

Evan Barrett: Was this the Private Committee, since you couldn't--the Court said you couldn't spend that education money that--?

00:41:54

Dorothy Eck: No, no; we had--we had to finance that--

00:41:57

Evan Barrett: You had to form another Committee huh?

00:41:58

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; we did that ourselves and Betty Babcock helped a lot with that. Betty had not been supportive of a lot of the--what was in the Constitution.

00:42:11

Evan Barrett: But I heard she gave an office at the Colonial to be used and kind of became part of the team that pushed it?

00:42:17

Dorothy Eck: Yes and her husband really greatly [*Laughs*]--

00:42:23

Evan Barrett: He didn't like it, right? [*Laughs*]

00:42:24

Dorothy Eck: In fact they were--they were kind of separated for quite a while. she went to work at Hennessy's in support; yeah.

00:42:32

Evan Barrett: Oh.

00:42:32

Dorothy Eck: Uh--

00:42:33

Evan Barrett: Could it have been over the Constitution? I guess you'll never know huh?

00:42:36

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; well it was--she--she was taking a very active role in support of it. In fact, she went around with Daphne Bugby, the two of them went all over the State, Democrats, prominent, well-spoken Democrat and a prominent well-spoken Republican and they made a lot of difference. They--they were a good team on that. And I think--

00:43:04

Evan Barrett: Now for those who predicted that it was just going to be another event and that it wouldn't actually happen, it came pretty close to not happening.

00:43:12

Dorothy Eck: That's right. It was--

00:43:13

Evan Barrett: When it came to a vote.

00:43:13

Dorothy Eck: --not easy; no, uh-hm, so all that work really paid off.

00:43:19

Evan Barrett: It was only a couple thousand votes-difference and it ended up having to go to the Supreme Court even to be adjudicated.

00:43:27

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm.

00:43:27

Evan Barrett: So but all of a sudden it was passed and--

00:43:31

Dorothy Eck: And they couldn't take it away.

00:43:33

Evan Barrett: Couldn't take it away.

00:43:34

Dorothy Eck: Uh-huh.

00:43:35

Evan Barrett: And it needed to be implemented and all the sudden we looked up and Tom Judge was elected Governor that fall and--and Forrest Anderson was stepping out after one term.

00:43:46

Dorothy Eck: And Tom Judge's chief guy was--

00:43:49

Evan Barrett: Ron Richards.

00:43:51

Dorothy Eck: Well--

00:43:51

Evan Barrett: Oh his Campaign Manager? It was Larry Pettit.

00:43:54

Dorothy Eck: Larry Pettit it was. Yeah and Larry Pettit put together this group in Helena--

00:43:59

Evan Barrett: The transition group.

00:44:01

Dorothy Eck: --a transition group and asked me to come over. And I came over; I mean I was a great admirer of Larry Pettit--would do anything and got over there and that was--you know there was a lot to do because--

00:44:15

Evan Barrett: Oh yeah. Even though you're changing--the Party was staying the same, any time you change a Governor that's a big transition.

00:44:22

Dorothy Eck: Oh yeah; yeah with a new Constitution and a lot of things--. Anyway we all got over there. I can remember Blanche was there; Blanche was the Governor's mother and she felt the--the first thing we had to do was put together a proper list of who should be invited to the Inaugural Ball. **[Laughs]** But--but Larry Pettit was there, too and we worked on issues. And that was--that was a good time.

00:44:53

Evan Barrett: Well the Governor then picked you to be what in my recollection was the term--was a Local Government Coordinator or--?

00:44:59

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm; that was--that was after this. You know to begin with they expected me to do a lot of work on transition through the New Constitution. But actually they had hired a--a staff person who did that really tedious work going through all of our legislation and looking at the minutia that needed to be changed because of the New Constitution. So I didn't do that kind of thing.

00:45:32

Evan Barrett: That would not be using your strength anyway.

00:45:34

Dorothy Eck: No; no. And working with Local government was something that I had always liked. And this was a great position because I was there and I had a Committee made half of Mayors and half of County Commissioners and we met and looked at what the problems were and what our strengths were and what we needed to do and how would we get it done and through all that period that--that Commission was really important.

00:46:10

Evan Barrett: So you were there in the middle of the Judge Administration and there was a lot of continuity from the previous Administration.

00:46:16

Dorothy Eck: Uh-hm and one of the things that Judge did was he kept a lot of the staff people from the previous Administration which was a--

00:46:28

Evan Barrett: Probably a smart thing.

00:46:30

Dorothy Eck: --very smart thing to do.

00:46:31

Evan Barrett: You know because when you hit the ground with everybody new you know it takes you a long time to get it going. I mean I guess one would say ask Stan Stevens. You know I mean it doesn't work that easily, so that--Ted Schwinden spoke to that about the--because he was one of those. He was in the Land Commission and he stayed on and later of course was Governor later on but--but he spoke to that remarkable continuity that occurred. But you were a new face.

00:47:00

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:47:02

Evan Barrett: And--and you were working with the Federal Coordinator which Dean--Dean worked on that. George McCarthy was part of that still was he or--?

00:47:11

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; he had been, yeah.

00:47:12

Evan Barrett: He had been; yeah.

00:47:12

Dorothy Eck: He was just moving out of that.

00:47:15

Evan Barrett: And--

00:47:15

Dorothy Eck: And I was with the Legislature.

00:47:17

Evan Barrett: And then that of course came about eight years later.

00:47:21

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:47:23

Evan Barrett: But you were doing this local--

00:47:23

Dorothy Eck: But I was with the Legislature--

00:47:26

Evan Barrett: Did you work with the Legislature from that position in Local government?

00:47:29

Dorothy Eck: No; but I was a member of the Legislature when Tom Judge took over.

00:47:38

Evan Barrett: No; it would have been--you actually were a member--you went in 1980. That's when Schwinden took over.

00:47:43

Dorothy Eck: Oh when Schwinden took over. That was--that was it.

00:47:45

Evan Barrett: Yeah; Tom had run for a third time and Schwinden--

00:47:47

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; that's right. And anyway you know they sent someone down to tell the Governor that--that we were in Session and glad that he was there. And I can remember going in and telling him that and he--he looked at me and he said, now what do I do? *[Laughs]*

00:48:09

Evan Barrett: Yeah; so what--do they still do that I wonder those Committees that go and say we're now in Session or the Committee that says now we're adjourning, sign or die, the Ceremonial Committees, they used to do I don't know if they do that anymore.

00:48:22

Dorothy Eck: I--they do it to the Court and they--

00:48:25

Evan Barrett: The Court; it's great.

00:48:27

Dorothy Eck: Yes.

00:48:27

Evan Barrett: It's great theater and tradition.

00:48:32

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; but I don't know that it accomplishes much but--. *[Laughs]* Anyway--

00:48:35

Evan Barrett: Oh we are here to say that we're adjourned, sign or die. Ben Stein, remember Ben; was it Ben Berg from over in--Ben Stein that was over in Livingston, a Senator years and years and years ago?

00:48:52

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:48:52

Evan Barrett: And they did that one time in the Legislature, he hated the Highway Commission; he thought they didn't do anything. So they were giving--having all these Committees and they'd come back and say Mr. President of the Senate we're here to say that we reported to the Governor and he accepts our message that we're adjourning, sign and die, etcetera, etcetera, and all that, And Ben Stein he got up and he said--he said I created a Committee of One to go over to the Highway Commission and report that we were adjourning, sign and die. He said I went over there and I found three people with their feet up on their desk reading the comic books, the comic papers, and I told them were adjourning and I wanted to let you know that I did that. He--he hated the Highway--. *[Laughs]* That was just--but--

00:49:31

Dorothy Eck: I hadn't heard that story.

00:49:32

Evan Barrett: Yeah; I was sitting there in the--I was sitting in the balcony listening to that one night when they were adjourning, sign and die. But you were in that Executive Branch. What brought you to decide to go into the Legislature? I mean how long did you stay in the Executive--?

00:49:54

Dorothy Eck: Well to begin with I didn't want to run for the Legislature because we had a perfectly good candidate already who was--had been elected. It was when she decided not to run and there was an opening I just felt this is my time.

00:50:13

Evan Barrett: Yeah; so Dorothy had served four terms, Dorothy Bradley? Is that who you're talking about?

00:50:17

Dorothy Eck: No.

00:50:19

Evan Barrett: No? Who in the Senate are you talking about?

00:50:20

Dorothy Eck: You know I don't remember who it was who had been Senator here. She was kind of--

00:50:27

Evan Barrett: Oh yeah; sure.

00:50:29

Dorothy Eck: She worked with the Historical Museum down here. Anyway--

00:50:32

Evan Barrett: But you decided that there was an opening and you went for it? And Dorothy Bradley in the meantime was no longer in the Legislature. She had run for Congress unsuccessfully and then she stayed out for a cycle or quite a few cycles. So you decided to go in there. Tell me what--

00:50:47

Dorothy Eck: But she was in the House and I ran in the Senate.

00:50:51

Evan Barrett: Right; tell me about your decision and about your race and about what you felt like getting in at the Legislature.

00:50:59

Dorothy Eck: Well I think the decision was--was easy once the opening was there and I realized that it's something I would really like to do. And I don't think the race was too difficult at that time. This area included not only Gallatin County but all of Park County. So it was you know a lot of--

00:51:21

Evan Barrett: The railroad was still there, too.

00:51:23

Dorothy Eck: --a lot of campaigning to do. And somehow at that time we did a lot on the radio. I don't know whether they do that anymore.

00:51:33

Evan Barrett: Well not so much but yeah.

00:51:36

Dorothy Eck: But they would have candidates come in and talk and people would come up--call in questions and so on and that was a good way of campaigning. But also I went to all kinds of meetings and knocked on doors up and down both counties, too.

00:51:52

Evan Barrett: You know when we talk about this as a period of empowerment of people it is that--that door-to-door kind of campaigning which came out of the Constitution with single-member districts, opened the door even more so to door-to-door campaigning and that was kind of an empowerment of people that is symbolic of this era that we're talking about.

00:52:12

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:52:12

Evan Barrett: And you did that and you got elected and how did--what did you think about it when you got to sit there and again you got to push that button?

00:52:19

Dorothy Eck: Oh that was--that was good; yeah, yeah.

00:52:22

Evan Barrett: Yeah?

00:52:23

Dorothy Eck: And from the beginning I was on the Taxation Committee. And all--all the years the 20 years I was there it always was that.

00:52:33

Evan Barrett: I think I came and saw you a few times.

00:52:34

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; I started also with Natural Resources and then we came to a Session, I think the Democrats were in charge when I got that Committee, but the next Session they were split 50/50 and the Republicans decided they wanted Natural Resources.

00:52:57

Evan Barrett: So you didn't chair it then?

00:52:58

Dorothy Eck: I went to Health which was a good place for me to go. And--

00:53:04

Evan Barrett: So reflecting on--in the 20 years in the Senate and then you were termed out under the term limits--

00:53:09

Dorothy Eck: No; no, I could have--I wasn't. I could have run.

00:53:12

Evan Barrett: You could have run one more time?

00:53:14

Dorothy Eck: I just knew that I had--had enough.

00:53:19

Evan Barrett: Yeah; but 20 years, tell us--give us a quick reflection on how that worked and how meaningful the process was and your sense of fulfillment in it.

00:53:30

Dorothy Eck: Hmm; well you know it--it was good. I liked the process. I liked the hearings of what we did with Bills. I learned early on that you could do a lot by adding Amendments to Bills [*Laughs*] and I did that both in Committee and on the Floor. It was--it was good important work and the work that we did on taxation made a lot of sense of--we looked at what had happened to Montana during the time that the copper was being developed out of Butte and there was a lot of money--

00:54:18

Evan Barrett: And the tax laws were written so that they basically didn't pay any.

00:54:23

Dorothy Eck: Yes. And then the financial gain went to the people in the East--where they made money on Montana's resources but they didn't spend any of it in Montana. So that was one of the things that had been criticized and we looked at in taxation that we wanted to be sure that Montana got enough of--

00:54:52

Evan Barrett: So that was the period when you moved from a net proceeds to a gross proceeds tax on metals?

00:54:58

Dorothy Eck: Yes; I think it was that period.

00:55:00

Evan Barrett: Which made a big difference?

00:55:01

Dorothy Eck: Yeah.

00:55:03

Evan Barrett: Sounds--just changing one word but it made a big difference.

00:55:06

Dorothy Eck: One of the things that happened when I was first into Local government is we had one of these big wheelers come from the coal industry saying you know there's going to be all of this development. And we want to know what you think would be better for Montana; would it be better for us to put all of our facilities in one area and have one big city say a couple hundred thousand in Eastern Montana or would it be better to have maybe 10 cities of 20,000 each? *[Laughs]*

00:55:47

And I was flabbergasted and I said you know you don't have any idea of what it takes to put together a city, you know the schools, the housing, the--the water, the electricity, the streets, all of that.

00:56:11

Evan Barrett: The net effect of that was they--they didn't get that big number one and number two they did form one city but it's Colstrip but that's only a couple thousand people.

00:56:18

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; yeah.

00:56:18

Evan Barrett: So it didn't--but that also spurred Ross Toole writing the *Rape of the Great Plains* and a lot of people being very alert to that and that led to a--some good reclamation laws and coal severance tax laws that you were undoubtedly a part of as well.

00:56:30

Dorothy Eck: Yeah; well we realized that in order to do what you need to do to have the facilities you needed tax money.

00:56:40

Evan Barrett: Yeah; that's a radical idea.

00:56:42

Dorothy Eck: And the tax money had to go a good part of it to the local areas. So that--that whole--that whole thing was--was interesting.

00:56:55

Evan Barrett: Well you know yours is a marvelous, marvelous story. You look back all these years and as we look at it, very few people in the history of Montana have had the breadth and length of experience that you've had.

00:57:09

Dorothy Eck: That's because I've lived so long. *[Laughs]*

00:57:11

Evan Barrett: We all aspire to that. But--but many of us live that length and don't have the impact that you've had and I know you're a very unassuming person that way but you've made a--a great difference in--in the history of Montana. So our recent Senate candidate I know just sent down a--a photo to you and she mentioned that she was standing on the shoulders of giants when she signed that picture because that's how she looks at you. And that's how so many people look at you--

00:57:44

Dorothy Eck: That's Amanda Curtis.

00:57:46

Evan Barrett: That's Amanda Curtis.

00:57:48

Dorothy Eck: And we're expecting good things from her. *[Laughs]*

00:57:49

Evan Barrett: And she--and--and so she recognizes you as one of those giants and you may not think of yourself that way but so many of us do. And so if we look back upon this period and--and we're so--I can't tell you how pleased I am we were able to get together here in your living room and be able to share these thoughts and these ideas and--and make them part of our package for people, young people and future generations to reflect upon all that you did. A couple final thoughts before we walk away--?

00:58:20

Dorothy Eck: Well you mentioned young people and that's something that I would have as a final thought that we really need to get young people engaged and participating while they're still young and hope that they keep it up.

00:58:35

Evan Barrett: Well that's part of the purpose of this; forever they're going to look at Dorothy Eck and know what you did and hear your thoughts and be inspired by you as so many of the rest of us are, so thank you for joining us today *In the Crucible of Change*.

00:58:47

[*Music*]

00:59:49

[End Giant - Fierce Fighter-People Power from the League to the Legislature-Dorothy Eck]